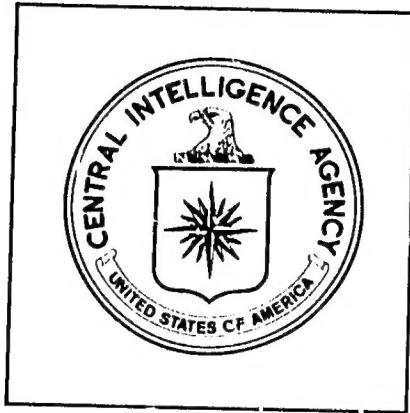


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Tanzania-Uganda*Propaganda Battle Heats Up*

Mounting military threats from Uganda's General Amin have prompted the Tanzanian government to respond with tough talk of its own. The Tanzanians probably do not think an attack from Uganda is likely, but they may be trying to counter the propaganda advantage Amin has been deriving from recently acquired Soviet military equipment.

In mid-March, Amin and the Soviet ambassador in Kampala made a public inspection of recently arrived military equipment. Amin commented on the ease with which the new aircraft might bomb Dar es Salaam. Early this month, Amin publicized a routine rotation of border troops as the sending of a crack mechanized regiment to thwart an invasion by the Tanzanians. He subsequently said that Tanzania is the only neighboring country that has anything to fear from Uganda's new weapons and that the Dar es Salaam government does not enjoy the support of its military.

On Sunday, the Tanzanian government abandoned its policy of low key denials of Amin's various charges. It said it had reports that a "neighboring country" was planning to annex a border district, and that this would unleash a war which would not be confined to the borders. The Tanzanian radio also said that the armed forces pledged their loyalty to the government and their determination to hit hard at anyone threatening the country's territorial integrity.

Amin's hostility for Nyerere is based on Tanzania's support for former Ugandan President Obote, whom Amin overthrew in 1971. Nyerere has given Obote sanctuary and provided support for an inept and unsuccessful invasion of Uganda by pro-Obote exiles. Recently Amin has been angered by Nyerere's efforts to force a change of venue for the OAU summit conference scheduled for Kampala in late July. If the

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conference is not held in Kampala, Amin would be deprived of the OAU presidency for the coming year, the traditional honor for the conference host.

Such hostility on Amin's part might impel him to some rash action. If fighting breaks out Amin's hand would appear to be strengthened by the aid he has recently received from the USSR and Czechoslovakia. Since late 1973, these countries have--after a hiatus of two years--provided Uganda with large quantities of weapons, as well as military advisers and technicians.

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Despite the deliveries, Uganda's capabilities are limited by its lack of adequately trained personnel, especially in the air force. Moreover, years of political turmoil and capricious leadership by Amin almost certainly have had an adverse effect on the discipline and proficiency of the Ugandan military.

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Persian Gulf

A Joint General Cargo Fleet

Six Persian Gulf states may establish a \$700 million joint shipping company that would triple the size of their general cargo fleets to nearly one million tons. It would be the first joint general cargo fleet in the area, although a number of joint oil tanker companies already exist. The antiquated general cargo fleets of the countries involved--Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates--now totals less than 300,000 tons.

Saudi Arabia is pushing for action on the proposal, but several problems must be resolved before the company can be established. Bahrain and Oman are unable to meet their share of the capital. Although Kuwait has offered to purchase a majority interest, some countries do not want Kuwait to head the company. These countries are also concerned that Kuwait's aging ships are slated to be the nucleus of the fleet until new vessels are purchased.

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Sikkim*On the Way to Statehood*

On April 21, the Indian government introduced a constitutional amendment in the lower house of parliament that aims at making Sikkim a full state in the Indian union. Prime Minister Gandhi's parliamentary majority ensures smooth passage through both houses, and there seem to be no problems to prevent ratification by at least half the state legislatures, as required for final adoption.

The bill provides for replacement of the hereditary ruler, the chogyal, by a governor appointed by New Delhi. The governor of Sikkim will be more powerful than other state governors, and will, in effect, give New Delhi full control over all important Sikkimese affairs. To maintain a check over the ethnic Nepalese majority which brought about the chogyal's downfall, the central parliament will reserve seats in Sikkim's legislature for the ethnic minority which has tended to support the chogyal.

The bill does not decide the fate of the chogyal, but it abolishes his role. He remains sequestered in his palace, and presumably will eventually be forced into exile. Leftists in India and Sikkim are conducting a publicity campaign against the chogyal and calling for his departure.

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